



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Atlanta, Georgia Accident Number: ERA11CA131

Date & Time: January 29, 2011, 17:00 Local Registration: N9127F

Aircraft: Piper PA-28-161 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Miscellaneous/other **Injuries:** 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot stated that he was holding short of a runway intersection awaiting further clearance from the ground air traffic controller. After receiving clearance to cross the runway, the pilot mistakenly turned left onto a grassy area. The right wing impacted a sign, resulting in substantial damage to the aileron and wing flap. The pilot stated that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or anomalies with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's wrong turn while taxiing resulting in a collision with a sign.

Findings

Personnel issues Incorrect action performance - Pilot

Aircraft Directional control - Incorrect use/operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi-to runway	Miscellaneous/other (Defining event)
Taxi-to runway	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 4, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 18, 2010
Flight Time:	328 hours (Total, all aircraft), 324 hours (Total, this make and model), 153 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N9127F
Model/Series:	PA-28-161	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	2816106
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2325 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	0-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	FLIGHTPATH USA LLC	Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	Steve Shaner	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	American Air Flight Training	Operator Designator Code:	

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PDK,1003 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Atlanta, GA (PDK)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Atlanta, GA (PDK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Dekalb-Peachtree Airport PDK	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1003 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.871944,-84.301109(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Diaz, Dennis

Additional Participating Persons: David Dunn; FAA/FSDO; Atlanta, GA

Original Publish Date: June 8, 2011

Last Revision Date: Investigation Class: Class

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=78266

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 United States Code section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 United States Code section 1154(b) is available here.

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